(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Poverty Eradication Programme

4277. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that poverty eradication programme has failed; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir, the poverty ratio has declined from 1983-84 to 1987-88. This decline can be attributed both to growth of output and employment in the process of economic growth as well as to the impact of poverty alleviation programme.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Decentralisation of the Planning Process

4278. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-governmental organisation in their meeting with Finance Minister had suggested for decentralisation of the planning process to make it more responsive to local needs;

(b) whether these NGOs had suggested the Government to abolish the centrally sponsored schemes to achieve that objective; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The representatives of the Non-Governmental Organisations in their pre-budget meeting with the Union Finance Minister held on 24th June, 1996 had suggested that the planning process should be decentralised and made more responsive to local needs.

(b) Yes, Sir. They had also suggested that the Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be abolished to bring about true devolution/decentralisation to the States.

(c) The whole issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States is likely to be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the National Development Council (NDC).

Drinking Water Scheme for Karnataka

4279. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide drinking water in urban areas of Karnataka with the aid of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the details of the urban areas to be covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Delay in Developmental Project

4280. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there were 399 developmental projects pending till December last in the country whose costs were more than 20 crore rupees :

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the Ministry-wise details of these projects;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction costs of these projects have been increased heavily due to their non-completion on time; and

(d) if so, the original estimated costs of these projects and now their revised estimated costs on their completion and the number of projects out of them which have received loans from foreign financial institutions?